

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, and re-examination and reconsideration of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to extend their appreciation to the Examiner for the courteous personal interview conducted with the undersigned on November 18, 2003. In accordance with the interview, Applicants have amended claim 1 to specify that the dispersing step is conducted at a temperature such that the solubility of the adipic acid crystals in the liquid medium remains low. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification such as at page 3, lines 9-11.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims now clearly distinguish over *Anderson et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,001), which requires the adipic acid to be dissolved before agitation. See, e.g., Example 1 thereof.

Accordingly, for at least all of the reasons set forth above and in the November 4th Reply, *Anderson et al* fails to disclose or suggest each of the features of the presently claimed invention. Therefore, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 has been amended for clarity. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification such as at page 4, lines 16-18. No change in scope is intended.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-977

Application No. 10/018,814

Page 5

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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